



DEC.  
NO. 217

15¢

# BAT MAN



TAKE A  
LAST LOOK,  
ALFRED--

THEN SEAL  
UP THE  
BATCAVE...  
**FOREVER!**

# BATMAN

Art:  
TIM NOVEN  
&  
DICK GORDON  
Story:  
FRANK ROBBINS

## ONE BULLET TOO MANY!

A DESPERATELY  
LONELY GUY IN  
THE LIFE OF  
BRUCE WAYNE  
GOARDIAN AND  
FRIEND TO  
YOUNG DICK  
GRAYSON...  
A GUY ALWAYS  
DREADED  
ALWAYS EXPECTED  
... BUT NEVER  
QUITE PREPARED  
FOR...

ALL HERE---AS IT USED TO BE!  
BUT---NO LONGER THE SAME...

5-217

DON'T THINK  
TO TAKE IT  
THIS HARD!

YOU NEVER KNOW  
TILL IT'S TOO LATE!

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AND SUDDENLY A BIG, UNDER-OCCUPIED WAYNE MANOR BECAME MASTER... (EMPTIER)



AS THEY TAKE THE SECRET BATCAVE ELEVATOR...





TAKE A LONG--POSSIBLY **LAST** LOOK, ALFRED--- THE **BATCAVE** IS DESTINED TO JOIN ALL THE CAVES OF HISTORY HOUSING THE **EXTINCT PAST!**

OH-H... NO, MASTER BRUCE H-HOW WILL--ER-- WE FUNCTION AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS OF **OLD?**

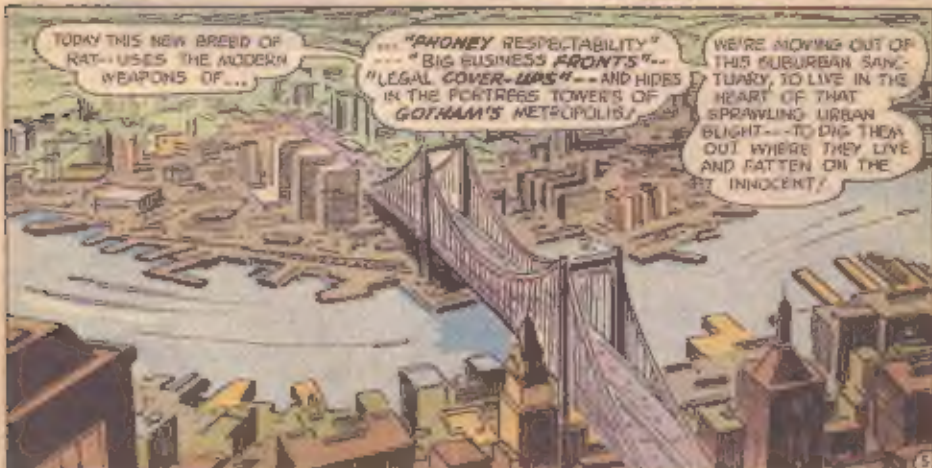


BY BECOMING **NEW**--- **STREAMLINING** THE OPERATION! BY DISCARDING THE PARAPHERNALIA OF THE PAST...

...AND FUNCTIONING WITH THE CLOTHES ON OUR BACKS... THE WITS IN OUR HEADS!



BY RE-ESTABLISHING THIS TRADEMARK OF THE "**OLD**" **BATMAN**--- TO STRIKE **NEW FEAR** INTO THE NEW BREED OF GANGSTERISM SWEEPING THE WORLD!



TODAY THIS NEW BREED OF RAT--USES THE MODERN WEAPONS OF...

"**PHONEY RESPECTABILITY**"  
... "**BIG BUSINESS FRONTS**"...  
"**LEGAL COVER-UPS**"--- AND HIDES IN THE PORTRESS TOWERS OF **GOTHAM'S METROPOLIS!**

WE'RE MOVING OUT OF THIS SUBURBAN SANCTUARY, TO LIVE IN THE HEART OF THAT SPRAWLING URBAN BLIGHT--- TO DIG THEM OUT WHERE THEY LIVE AND FATTEN ON THE **INNOCENT!**

LATER...



I-I CAN'T BEAR TO  
LOOK BACK, MASTER  
BRUCE!

DON'T, ALFRED...  
THE FUTURE IS AHEAD!

A LONG DRIVE INTO THE CENTER  
OF GOTHAM, AND...



OUR NEW  
HOME -- WAYNE  
FOUNDATION!

AND THIS PENTHOUSE IS OUR  
"DIGS" ...  
CONVERTED  
FROM  
FORMER  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICES!



MUCH BETTER  
BACHELOR  
ACCOMMODATIONS,  
SW--- SIMPLER TO  
KEEP IN ORDER!  
I APPROVE.

GLAD YOU DO, ALF!  
WE MAY HAVE  
TO DO A LOT OF  
"LEANING ON  
EACH OTHER"  
IN DAYS TO  
COME!



ESPECIALLY  
SINCE NOW--  
AS BRUCE  
WAYNE-- I'LL  
BE KEEPING A  
CLOSER EYE ON  
FOUNDATION  
AFFAIRS BY  
DAY...



I'LL FIND  
"SOCKS"  
IT TO "EM"  
BY NIGHT!

AND THIS IS WHERE BATMAN  
AND THE WAYNE FOUNDATION  
START TO JOIN FORCES!  
READ IT, ALF--- ONE OF A  
SERIES OF CRUISING  
ARTICLES!



"V.A. --  
VICTIMS  
ANONYMOUS---  
PART 3, BY  
MARLA MANNING"

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE

6

"...LATEST VICTIM IN THE UNSUNG CASE-HISTORY OF INNOCENTS IN THE WAR AGAINST CRIME---DR. SUSAN FIELDING, PEDIATRICIAN."

"UNSOLVED"---THE CRIMINAL UNPUNISHED! THINK OF IT, ALF.

...HOW MANY UNDERWORLD KILLINGS---MAYMINGS---IN THIS VAST CITY LEAVE A TRAIL OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THE "VICTIM" WIVES---MOTHERS---CHILDREN...

...AND WIFE OF DR. JONAH FIELDING, SLAIN LAST WEEK WHILE TREATING AN UNKNOWN GUN-SHOT PATIENT/ IN THIS UNSOLVED TRAGEDY...

...MARY LEFT WITHOUT ANY MEANS OF SUPPORT/ IT'S THE GREAT UNPUBLISHED TRAGEDY OF OUR TIME!

WE SUFFER GREAT PAIN OVER TRUE JUSTICE --- "RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL" --- "INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY"...

...ALL FOR THE ACCUSED PARTIES! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE "PROVEN" INNOCENT- THE VICTIMS?

INNOCENT VICTIMS SUCH AS DICK AND I WERE--- WHEN OUR PARENTS WERE BRUTALLY SLAIN/ THEIR DEATHS WERE THE BIRTHS OF--- BATMAN AND ROBIN!

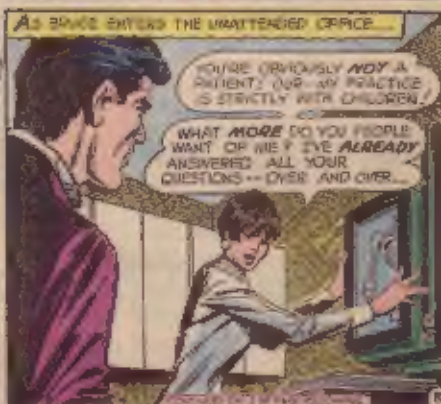
WE WERE IN THE FORTUNATE POSITION TO CLAIM JUSTICE FOR OURSELVES--- BUT WHAT OF THE LESS FORTUNATES?

THAT IS A DISTURBING THOUGHT, SIR/ WHAT ABOUT THEM?

PRECISELY WHAT WAYNE FOUNDATION INTENDS TO CORRECT/ AND UNTIL WE CAN ARRANGE A LOBBY IN THE STATE CAPITAL TO CAMPAIGN FOR PUBLIC FUNDS...

...WE'RE SETTING UP A SPECIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HERE TO AID THESE PEOPLE!

WORTHY IDEA, SIR/ WHILE THESE POOR VICTIMS ARE FORGOTTEN BY THE PUBLIC--- TO US THEY'RE VERY IMPORTANT PEOPLE! M.R.'S, YOU MIGHT SAY!



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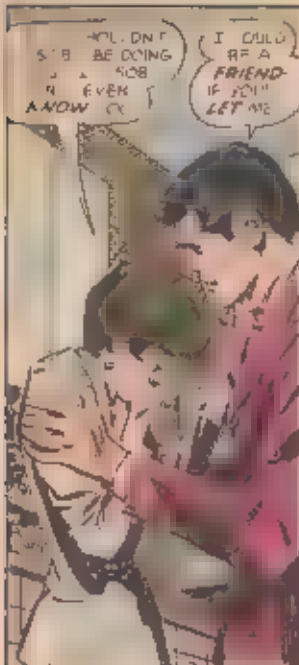
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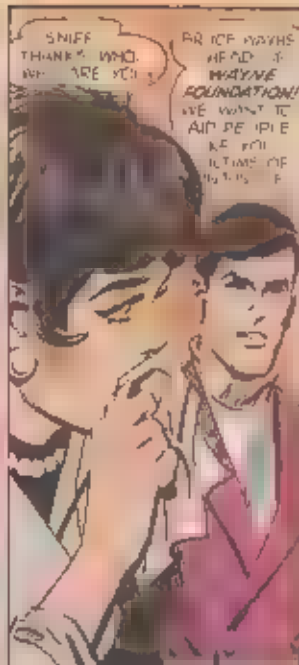
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"I DON'T  
SHOULD BE DOING  
THIS. I AM EVEN  
NOW."

"I COULD  
BE A  
FRIEND  
IF YOU  
LET ME."



"SNIFF  
THANKS WHO  
WHO ARE YOU?"

"AR ICE WAYNE  
HEAD OF  
WAYNE  
FOUNDATION!  
WE WANT TO  
AID PEOPLE  
AS YOU  
ULTIMATE OF  
MILITARY."



"I DON'T NEED YOUR CHARITY!  
AND WITH ALL YOUR WEALTH  
YOU CAN'T BRING US BACK!"

"BUT YOU HAVE A  
FIRE AHEAD OF  
YOU SERVING  
MANKIND IF YOU  
WANT TO FACE IT."

"I AM NOT  
IDEAL  
WE CAN  
HELP."



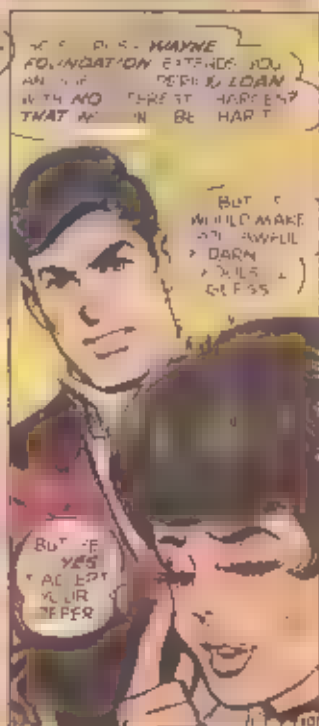
"IT IS BEFORE YOU KNOW  
THAT YOU ARE IN DEBT  
IF YOU HAD BEEN ASKING  
ON A SIDE STRING."

"WE WORKED OUR  
WAY THROUGH  
MEDIocrACY  
WHERE WE  
MET SET UP  
HINT DON'T  
HERE WHEN  
WE MARRIED."



"SOUND WITH IRREA-  
TICULAR TOGETHER  
PROPER FOR MEN  
TO OUR LITTLE PATENT  
NEEDS, PROPERLY! BUT NOW"

"NOW THE  
LIFE OF THE  
SENTIMENT  
BEFORE CASH-  
EER?"



"ICE D. WAYNE  
FOUNDATION EXTENDS YOU  
AN OFFER OF A  
WITH NO FURTHER HARDSHIP  
THAT WILL BE HARD"

"BUT I  
WOULD MAKE  
A DARN  
GREAT  
GUESS"

"BUT YES  
I ACCEPT  
YOUR  
OFFER"



"THAT'S  
THE  
WE  
FINI  
HUSBAND  
KILLER AS  
FUG Y

YOU COULD  
YOU  
WHEN EVEN  
THE POLICE  
NOT UP  
AGAINST A  
RANK WALL



I HAVE A FRIEND WHO  
SPECIALIZES IN BLANK WALL  
FACES  
BATMAN!

YOU KNOW HIM? BUT  
WHY WOULD HE--- I MEAN,  
THIS CASE IS SO UNIMPOR-  
TANT TO SUCH A BRILLIANT  
CRIME FIGHTER

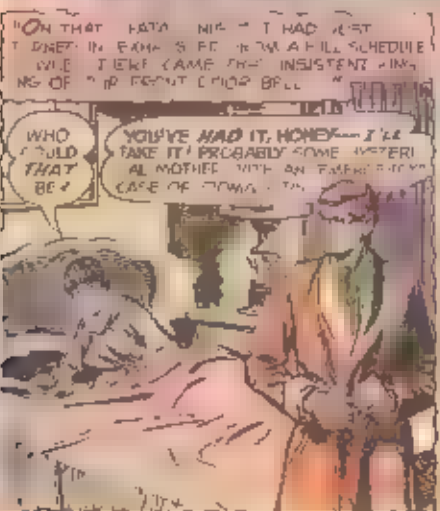


YOU DON'T KNOW HIM--  
LIKE I DO. SUSAN. ALL  
HUMANITY IS IMPORTANT TO  
BATMAN--ANY LIFE NO MATTER  
HOW INSIGNIFICANT IN THE PUBLIC  
EYE



CARE TO  
TELL ME ABOUT  
IT?

IONAH AND I SPLIT  
OUR OFFICE HOURS  
I RAN AN AFTER  
NOON SESSION FOR  
WORKING MOTHERS  
AND THEIR CHILDREN



"ON THAT DATE NIGHT I HAD JUST  
FINISHED MY AFTERNOON SCHEDULE  
WHEN I HEARD THE INSISTENT RING-  
ING OF 'MR. ROBERT CRIPPER BELL'"

WHO  
WOULD  
THAT  
BE?

YOU'VE HAD IT, HONEY-- I'LL  
TAKE IT! PROBABLY SOME VIOLEN-  
T MOTHER WITH AN EMERGENCY  
CASE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



"I COULDN'T RESIST THE KISS AFTER MY  
DEFEAT AS A TRAINING SCHOOL HUMANITY  
PROJECT AND I SAW

1980-81

A BIG MAN QUIETLY + TROUBLE!  
A TRAIL OF BLOOD MY HEAD AND  
HELPING HIM IN A DONT OFF  
IS FACE

WAS HE  
LIMPING?  
HOLDING  
HIS LE

NOT IN  
THAT I  
NOTICED

WHEN THE POLICE  
SAID THE KILLER  
WAS A GUN SHOT  
VICTIM AND WCE  
EVERY WCE HAD  
TO REMEMBER SUCH  
CASES OF THE  
POLICE



THE PATIENT MUST  
HAVE MURDERED TOMAH  
AFTER EMERGENCY  
TREATMENT  
PREVENT  
IDENTIFICATION!

1. THE CASE  
2. THERE'S A KILLER  
3. OF THE  
4. HAVING A BULLET  
INJURY!  
5. LIMPED. WE'D HAVE  
6. WE WENT TO  
7. TALK ON

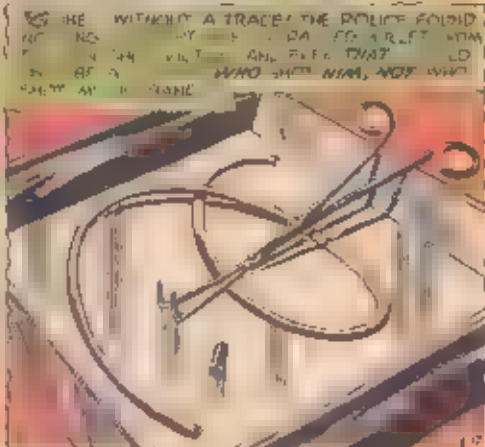


\* I WAS BACK IN BED  
FOR A FEW DAYS  
SLEEP WHEN IT CAME!  
TWO OR THREE GUN  
BLASTS DOWN IN  
A HUR RUMBLING  
DEAFENING RAIN  
DOWN AND



I DIDN'T HAVE  
TO BE A DOCTOR  
TO KNOW HE  
DIED INSTANTLY

EASY GAI I KNOW  
NOW PAINFUL T  
T E



HE WITHIN A TRACE THE POLICE FOLLO  
NO NO MY DA TO A LET HIM  
AT A WHO SHOT HIM, NOT WHO  
HEW AT A NAME

AND  
HE FENT?





WITH SUSAN'S COLLEGE BATHMAN WASTES NO TIME BE  
 MAN OF A THOUSAND FACES

AND IN THE EARLY HOURS OF  
 DOWN

HURR! ALL THAT DOES W  
 GET HER GLIMS ON THE  
 KTR WHAT PUT  
 THE SLUG INTO HER  
 BE TER-HALE  
 NEW!

MAY BEAY N  
 WHILE IN SP

PASS THE  
 WORD: THE  
 AL MEDIC  
 S ALOT  
 TO SPILL

THE OF THE UNDERWORLD  
 GAD BATH: APTED BY  
 THING HT LA JOY SHOULD  
 BE REAL WORRIED

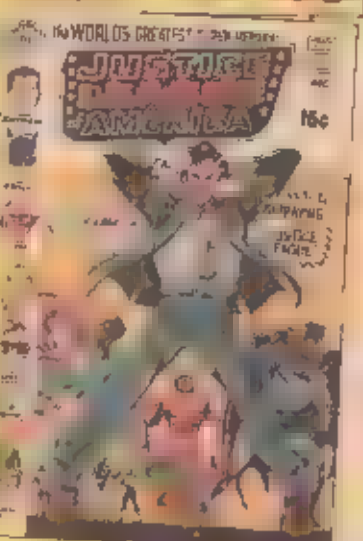
HE ILL BE  
 WAITING FOR  
 HIM

NEVER TRUST A  
 WOMAN TKEED HER BUS  
 NEXT SHLT BE: VHEAR  
 ALOT THAT FIT ONI PAGE

# WHO DONE IT? WHO IS IT?



DISCOVER  
 THE  
 AMAZING  
 ANSWERS  
 IN  
 THESE  
 LATEST  
**DC**  
 HITS!



ON SALE OCT 29<sup>th</sup>

ON SALE OCT 28<sup>th</sup>





# STRANGE OLD LAWS



ANY MOTORIST ENTERING TACOMA HAD TO STOP ON TAPE THE CITY LIMITS AND PHONE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO TELL HIM HE WAS ARRIVING



AN OLD LAW IN BRAINERD, MINN. REQUIRED ALL MALE CITIZENS TO GROW A BEARD



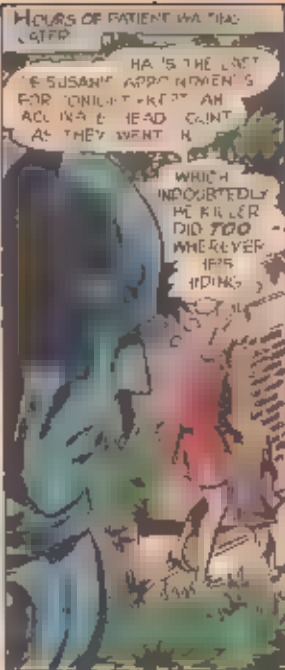
CHARLESTON S.C. PRISONERS WERE CHARGED ONE DOLLAR FOR THE RIDE TO JAIL IN THE PATROL WAGON



BOSTON MASS. ONCE HAD A LAW FORBIDDING ANYONE TO OWN A DOG MORE THAN 10 INCHES IN HEIGHT



UP HERE  
WE GOT GOOD COVERAGE  
IF ALL APPROACHES TO  
OUR OFFICE'S OFFICE  
END, I AM T MISS A MAN  
WITH A SLING!



HOURS OF PATIENT WAITING  
OUTER

HA IS THE LAST  
OF SUSAN'S APPOINTMENTS  
FOR TONIGHT - KEEP AN  
EYE ON A HEAD COUNT  
AS THEY WENT IN

WHICH  
INDOUBTEDLY  
HE KILLER  
DID TOO  
WHEREVER  
HE'S  
HIDING



WE'VE GOT TO MAKE  
HIM MOVE SOON  
WHEN HE'S ALONE  
WE'LL BE ALONE!

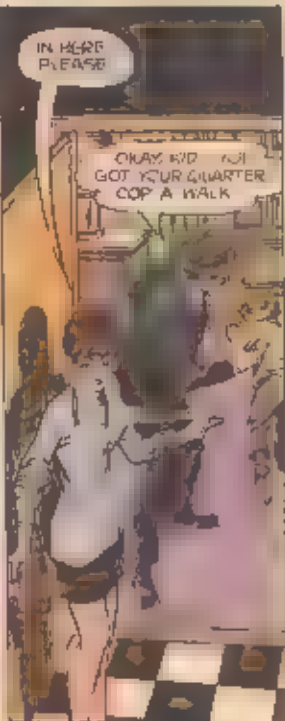
WHAT'S  
THIS



"HURRY  
COME BE  
CAUSE  
DOCTOR  
BUT MY  
LITTLE  
BOY

GUESS NATALIE  
DOESN'T KEEP  
DOCTOR'S HOURS,  
HIT COME IN

LET  
ANOTHER  
LIVE PATIENT  
AND HIS VA  
TRIP HAS  
NO SLING

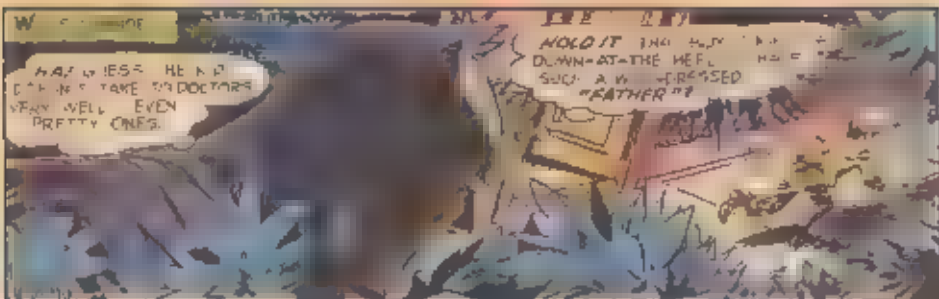


IN HERE  
PLEASE

OKAY AND YOU  
GOT YOUR QUARTER  
COP A WALK

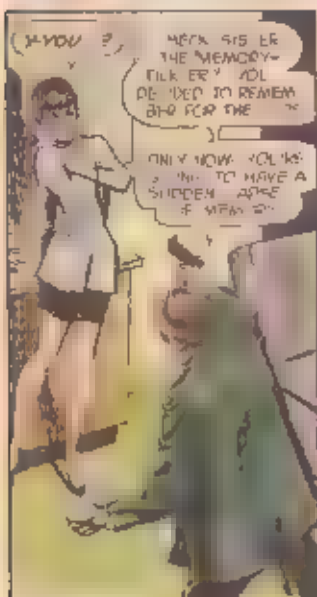


GASO



HAIWIES HE A D  
CAN HE TAKE IN DOCTORS  
VERY WELL EVEN  
PRETTY ONES.

HOLD IT THE MAN  
DOWN-AT-THE MEET  
SUCH A W-ERESSED  
"FATHER?"



YOU?  
HECK YES ER  
THE MEMORY-  
TALK ER' ADL  
DE'ED TO REMEM  
BND FOR THE

ONLY NOW YOU'VE  
TO HAVE A  
SHEDDEN ASKE  
F MEAN D?



BUT SUSAN  
SAID THE KILLED  
WAS A BIG  
MAN

BETTER  
HAVE A  
LOOK SEE!



BIL OR  
SMALL  
HE'S THE  
GUNSEL!

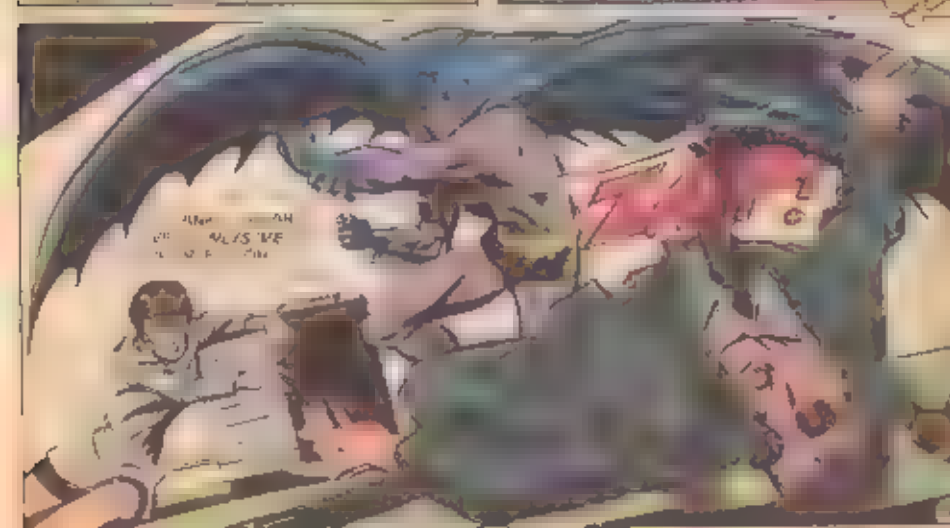


DOWN  
SUSAN

KRAK!

WHA  
BATMAN!

WHA  
BATMAN!





BUT EVEN AS THE GUNMAN FIRES, BATMAN MAKES A SACRIFICE INTERCEPT, AND...

B-BATMAN?

ARGH-H!

AND AT THAT MOMENT...

SO I GOT  
BATMAN FIRST!  
TOUGH, SISTER--  
YOU STILL GET IT...

HEY,  
WHAT'S  
THAT...?

SOME SNIDIFY NEIGHBOR  
MUST'VE HEARD MY EARLIER SHOT  
--CALLED THE FUZZ! GOTTA LAM...

AS ONE POLICEMAN GIVES CHASE...

WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
HERE?

BATMAN...?  
DR. FIELDING--  
IS IT BAD?

DON'T KNOW  
YET! BETTER RUSH  
HIM TO A HOSPITAL!

NEGATIVE, SUSAN!  
I---I WANT THIS  
BULLET OUT  
NOW!

B-BUT--WHY?

BECAUSE THIS JOLT  
SHOOKED ME INTO THE  
REALIZATION THAT...

THE WHOLE ANSWER TO  
THIS MYSTERY DEPENDS ON  
IDENTIFICATION OF THIS  
BULLET!



AND AFTER A QUICK PREPARATION...

THIS "LOCAL" MAY NOT CURE ALL  
THE PAIN, BATMAN.

NO MATTER! GET  
IT OUT, SUSAN--  
INTACT!

MY  
MY FIRST  
DOUBT,  
THAT WE  
WEREN'T  
LOOKING FOR  
THE RIGHT MAN,  
CAME WHEN...



WHEN...THAT SHORT  
GUNMAN TOOK THE  
BAIT AFTER OUR  
"LEAK" THAT YOU,  
SUSAN, COULD IDENTIFY  
THE "KILLER"...

YET...THE GUN-SHOT VICTIM  
YOU GLIMPSED WAS A  
"BIG" MAN!



AND...THIS SMALL JOKER WAS  
HEALTHY AND STRONG AS AN  
OX! NOT THE "INVALID" WE  
EXPECTED!

OW-TCH!

GOT IT...



YOU MEAN--THERE  
WERE TWO MEN?  
BUT I ONLY  
SAW ONE...

BEFORE YOU WENT  
BACK TO RED! BUT  
SUPPOSE "SHORTY"  
JOINED THE PARTY--  
BEFORE YOUR HUSBAND  
WAS SHOT!



LOST HIM...!  
AND DIDN'T GET  
AN EFFECTIVE I.D.--

TOO BAD--BUT THIS SLUG MAY  
PUT THE FINGER ON HIM! TAKE  
US TO THE CRIME  
LAB--FAST!

OOO--I  
END UP THE "MAN"  
WITH HIS ARM  
IN A SLING!



LATER, AT POLICE H.Q....

YEP... THEY MATCH!  
THE ONE FROM YOUR  
ARM, BATMAN... AND THE ONE  
WE TOOK FROM DR. FIELDING'S  
BODY!

ONE SLUG... BUT SUSAN HEARD  
TWO SHOTS! NOW IT ALL FALLS  
INTO PLACE!

GIVE ME A  
COMPARISON  
CHECK ON THE  
THIRD BULLET!  
THE ONE JONAH  
FIELDING EXTRACTED  
FROM HIS GUN-  
SHOT "VICTIM"!

BUT WHERE DOES  
THAT FIGURE IN? CAN'T  
BE THE SAME AS THESE  
TWO!

A GUY DOESN'T  
SHOOT HIM-  
SELF ON  
PURPOSE BE-  
FORE GOING TO  
A DOC.?

PRECISELY!

WHEN THE BALLISTICS CHECK IS RUN...

IT IS THE SAME! ALL  
THREE-- FROM THE SAME  
GUN! BUT THAT'S...

...IMPOSSIBLE? JUST  
WHAT THE REAL KILLER  
WANTED YOU TO THINK...

SO YOU'D ALL GO ON A  
WILD-GOOSE CHASE, HUNTING  
ONE MAN WITH HIS ARM IN  
A BUNG! THE GUN-SHOT  
VICTIM...

WHO MAY BE AT  
THE BOTTOM OF THE  
RIVER WHILE "SHORTY"  
GOAMS FREE!

THE WAY I SEE IT-- TWO  
THUGS HAD A FALLING  
OUT! "SHORTY" SHOOTS  
HIS PARTNER-- BUT NOT  
GOOD ENOUGH-- HE GETS  
AWAY! "SHORTY" FOLLOWS--  
CATCHES HIM IN THE DOC'S  
OFFICE...

... AND BLASTS THEM BOTH!  
CARRIES OFF HIS EX-BUDDY--  
AND DISPOSES OF HIM!

NOW WHAT "TEAM" FITS  
THAT VAGUE DESCRIPTION?

SURE... SURE!  
"HOP" MILLER--  
AND "STUB"  
SARTEL! AND  
BIG "HOP"  
HASN'T BEEN AROUND  
LATELY!

SO... DRAG THE RIVER-- AND GET  
OUT AN ALL-POINTS ALERT  
FOR "STUB"! AND YOU'VE  
CLOSED THE CASE OF...  
"ONE BULLET TOO  
MANY"!

THE NEXT DAY...

...DUE TO BATMAN'S BRILLIANT DEDUCTION IN THE UNSOLVED DR. FIELDING CASE, THE REAL KILLER, "STUB" SARTEL, WAS CAPTURED EARLY THIS MORNING!

ONLY IT'S A GAME HE'S FORCED BATMAN--BRUCE WAYNE--TO TAKE A SUDDEN "BUSINESS" TRIP, BECAUSE OF THIS ARM, ALFIE! I'VE SO MUCH TO DO!

THE WHEELS ARE ALREADY IN MOTION, SIR! YOUR VICTIMS, INC. PROGRAM IS OFF TO A FINE START!



SOMETIME LATER, IN HIS FOUNDATION OFFICE

...SO, AS YOU CAN GATHER, DICK... BY NOW THE K.I.P. IS A HOWLING SUCCESS! WITH THE CRIME WORLD DOING ALL THE HOWLING!



BUT HIS LETTER TO DICK GRAYSON AT HUDSON UNIVERSITY, IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED BY A COMMOTION OUTSIDE...

SIR... SIR... YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!

OH... NO?



WAYNE-- I'M ONE O'YORE "VICTIMS, INC."---AND YUH'RE THE NEXT ONE!



IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF DETECTIVE COMICS--  
"A VICTIM'S VICTIM!"

21

# NEW KING-SIZE "MATCHBOX" MODEL OF THE MONTH.

The tough jobs call for King-Size "MATCHBOX".

The new Scammell Mobile Crane looks like it just rolled in from the construction site. Check out the machine details: four axles, a crane operator cab that rotates a full 360° just like its big brother, and a boom that can be raised and lowered. Every real "MATCHBOX" expert needs one. And to be sure your collection is up to date,

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